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# NWT Labour Force Activity

September 2016

## Overview

Statistics Canada estimates that in September 2016, 22,900 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 70.2%. This is a decrease of 500 persons over the previous month. The decline in the number of employed persons is partly accounted for by summer students returning to school and the end of the fire season. Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 61.6%, with Yukon (73.9%) having the highest employment rate, followed by the Northwest Territories (70.2%), Alberta (66.7%), and Saskatchewan (66.0%).

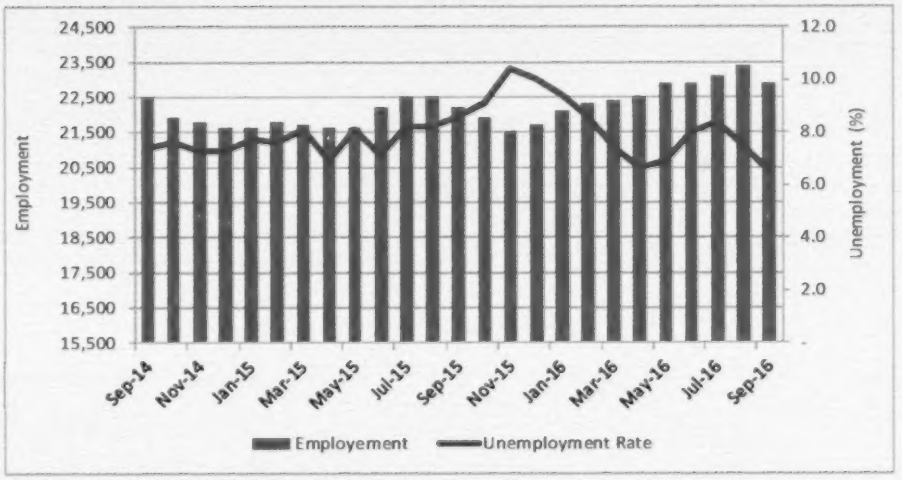
Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories

| | September-2016 | August-2016 | September-2015 | Change from Sept 2015 – Sept 2016 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Number | % |
| Population 15+ | 32,600 | 32,700 | 31,800 | 800 | 2.5 |
| Labour force | 24,500 | 25,300 | 24,300 | 200 | 0.8 |
| Employment | 22,900 | 23,400 | 22,200 | 700 | 3.2 |
| Full-time | 20,600 | 20,800 | 19,400 | 1,200 | 6.2 |
| Part-time | 2,300 | 2,600 | 2,800 | (500) | -17.9 |
| Unemployment | 1,600 | 1,900 | 2,100 | (500) | -23.8 |
| Participation rate (%) | 75.2 | 77.4 | 76.4 | | |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 6.5 | 7.5 | 8.6 | | |
| Employment rate (%) | 70.2 | 71.6 | 69.8 | | |

Year-over-year, full-time employment increased while part-time employment decreased for a total net gain of 700.

In September 2016, the unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%, making it the lowest since March 2011. Unemployment decreased by 500 persons compared to September 2015.

Figure 1: Employed Persons & Unemployment Rate, NWT 2014 - 2016

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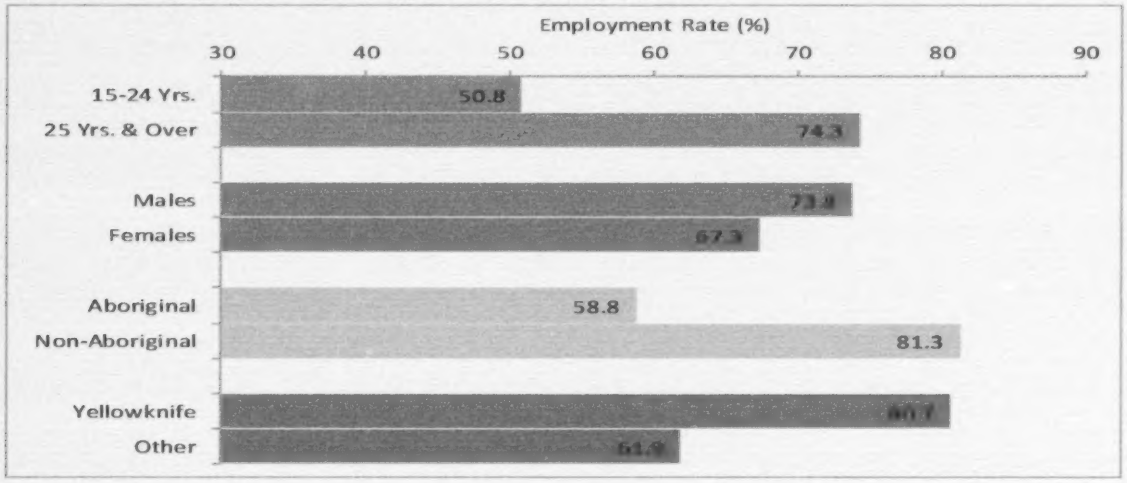
## EMPLOYMENT BY KEY CHARACTERISTICS

The employment rate for youths aged 15-24 dropped 5.1 percentage points from last month compared to 0.3 percentage point drop among those aged 25 and over. There was a slight decrease in the employment rate of both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Regionally, the employment rate increased by 1.2 percentage points in Yellowknife, while declining 2.3 percentage points for the rest of the territory.

Figure 2: Employment rates by key characteristics, Sept 2016

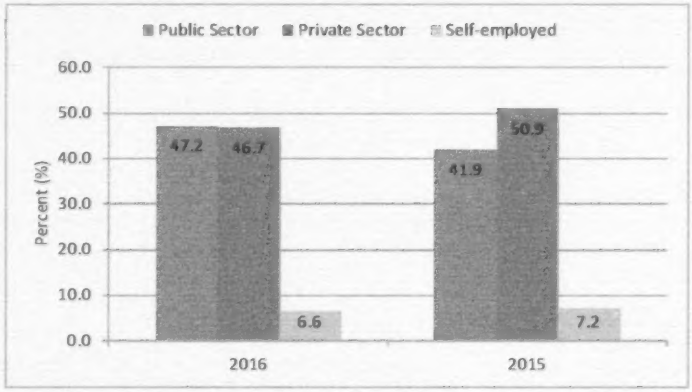



## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY & CLASS OF WORKER

In September 2016, employment in the goods-producing sector decreased by 800 persons compared to the same time last year. In contrast, the services-producing sector employed 1,700 more persons, offsetting losses from the goods-producing sector.

Compared to September 2015, the proportion of those employed in the public sector increased, with corresponding decreases in private sector employment and self-employment. Figure 3 presents changes in the distribution of employed persons by class of worker.

Figure 3: Employment by Class of Worker, Sept 2015 & 2016
Northwest Territories, Sept 2016



## HISTORICAL LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

Table 2: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

| | Population 15 & Over | Labour Force | Employed | Unemployed | Not in the Labour Force | Participation Rate | Unemployment Rate | Employment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sep-16 | 32,600 | 24,500 | 22,900 | 1,600 | 8,100 | 75.2 | 6.5 | 70.2 |
| Aug-16 | 32,700 | 25,300 | 23,400 | 1,900 | 7,400 | 77.4 | 7.5 | 71.6 |
| Jul-16 | 32,600 | 25,100 | 23,100 | 2,100 | 7,500 | 77.0 | 8.4 | 70.9 |
| Jun-16 | 32,600 | 24,900 | 22,900 | 2,000 | 7,600 | 76.4 | 8.0 | 70.2 |
| May-16 | 32,500 | 24,600 | 22,900 | 1,700 | 7,900 | 75.7 | 6.9 | 70.5 |
| Apr-16 | 32,400 | 24,100 | 22,500 | 1,600 | 8,200 | 74.4 | 6.6 | 69.4 |
| Mar-16 | 32,300 | 24,200 | 22,400 | 1,800 | 8,000 | 74.9 | 7.4 | 69.3 |
| Feb-16 | 32,200 | 24,400 | 22,300 | 2,100 | 7,800 | 75.8 | 8.6 | 69.3 |
| Jan-16 | 32,100 | 24,400 | 22,100 | 2,300 | 7,600 | 76.0 | 9.4 | 68.8 |
| Dec-15 | 32,000 | 24,100 | 21,700 | 2,400 | 7,900 | 75.3 | 10.0 | 67.8 |
| Nov-15 | 31,900 | 24,000 | 21,500 | 2,500 | 8,000 | 75.2 | 10.4 | 67.4 |
| Oct-15 | 31,900 | 24,100 | 21,900 | 2,200 | 7,700 | 75.5 | 9.1 | 68.7 |
| Previous Years: | | | | | | | | |
| Sep-15 | 31,800 | 24,300 | 22,200 | 2,100 | 7,500 | 76.4 | 8.6 | 69.8 |
| Sep-14 | 32,300 | 24,300 | 22,500 | 1,800 | 8,000 | 75.2 | 7.4 | 69.7 |
| Sep-13 | 32,600 | 25,800 | 23,700 | 2,100 | 6,700 | 79.1 | 8.1 | 72.7 |
| Sep-12 | 32,500 | 26,000 | 23,800 | 2,200 | 6,400 | 80.0 | 8.5 | 73.2 |
| Sep-11 | 32,400 | 26,100 | 24,100 | 1,900 | 6,300 | 80.6 | 7.3 | 74.4 |
| Sep-10 | 32,100 | 23,800 | 22,300 | 1,500 | 8,200 | 74.1 | 6.3 | 69.5 |
| Sep-09 | 31,700 | 22,500 | 20,700 | 1,800 | 9,200 | 71.0 | 8.0 | 65.3 |
| Sep-08 | 31,800 | 24,300 | 23,100 | 1,300 | 7,400 | 76.4 | 5.3 | 72.6 |
| Sep-07 | 31,600 | 25,200 | 23,700 | 1,400 | 6,400 | 79.7 | 5.6 | 75.0 |
| Sep-06 | 31,300 | 24,400 | 23,300 | 1,100 | 6,800 | 78.0 | 4.5 | 74.4 |

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca/ or call (867) 767-9169.

Next Release: November 4, 2016